

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 7, 2015

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
United States House of Representatives
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert
United States House of Representatives
409 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
United States House of Representatives
201 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States House of Representatives
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Gallego, Schweikert, Kirkpatrick and Sinema:

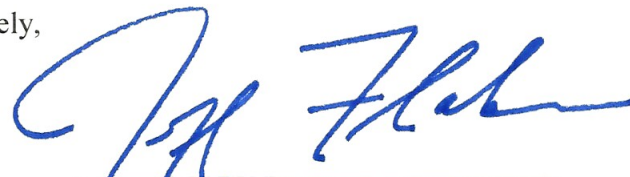
Thank you for your letter expressing appreciation for our efforts to find a resolution to the problems that have arisen since the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) instituted new flight patterns for departure routes from Phoenix Sky Harbor.

We are aware of the amendment recently included by the House in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2016 on the Phoenix Metroplex regional airspace redesign. We share your commitment to enacting legislation that would address the issues raised by residents whose daily lives have been impacted by these flight path changes.

While we are more than willing to consider amending any available legislative vehicle to address the critical needs of our constituents, it appears that Senate Democrats remain committed to blocking consideration of appropriations bills this year. Should Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid prevent the Senate from moving forward on THUD, we will be unable to offer and pass critical amendments. Given that you seek inclusion of the House-passed language in the Senate version of the THUD appropriations bill, we suggest you consider writing to Leader Reid to ask him to lift his legislative strangle-hold on the Senate's Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations process.

As you know, we recently sent a letter to Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson of the Senate Commerce Committee. The letter urged them to include proposals in the upcoming FAA reauthorization bill that would allow communities affected by flight noise the opportunity to engage substantively in the process with the FAA before changes, like those made last September impacting Phoenix, can go into effect. With the probability of moving appropriations bills in the Senate in the near future unlikely, we will continue to pursue legislative remedies for the situation in Phoenix in the upcoming authorization legislation.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator
Jeff Flake
United States Senator